

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 00134 092200Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SSC-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 HEW-04 CU-04 PC-01
HA-05 /081 W

-----101109 092234Z /61

R 092131Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9051
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

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EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINR, HO

SUBJECT: NEW MINECONOMY: NO OTHER MAJOR CHANGES

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 0042

1. MAJOR CHANGES IN THE GOH ARE APPARENTLY ROUNDED OUT WITH THE MOVE OF BENJAMIN VILLANUEVA FROM THE HONDURAN BANANA CORPORATION (COHBANA) TO BECOME MINISTER OF ECONOMY. FORMER MINECONOMY VICENTE DIAZ SWITCHES WITH VILLANUEVA, TAKING OVER COHBANA.

2. THERE HAD BEEN SPECULATION THAT FONMIN ROBERTO PALMA GALVEZ WOULD ALSO BE REPLACED WHEN FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER (1975-1976) AND AMBASSADOR TO CHILE VIRGILIO R. GALVEZ (1976-PRESENT) WAS URGENTLY RECALLED FROM SANTIAGO. PALMA ADDED TO THE GUESSING WHEN HE DESCRIBED HIS JOB AS DIFFICULT AND GALVEZ, CONSIDERED AN EXPERT ON THE HONDURAN-EL SALVADOR BORDER DISPUTE, A GOOD POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT. IN FACT, PALMA WAS NEVER UP FOR CHANGE. VIRGILIO GALVEZ WAS CALLED BACK TO BE NAMED THE SUPREME

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COURT'S REPRESENTATIVE ON THE NEWLY CREATED NATIONAL ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL.

3. IN SPITE OF WIDESPREAD RUMORS THAT THEY WOULD BE REPLACED BY MILITARY OFFICERS, JUAN MARINAKYS OF THE NATIONAL INVESTMENT CORPORATION (CONADI), ANTONIO JOSE COELLO OF THE NATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY (ENP) AND RICARDO REYES OF THE FORESTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (COHDEFOR) HAVE APPARENTLY BEEN RETAINED IN

THEIR JOBS. ALL THREE ARE CONSIDERED COMPETENT, APOLITICAL
MANAGERS WHO HAVE PERFORMED WELL RUNNING THEIR IMPORTANT
AUTONOMOUS AGENCIES; IN SPITE OF RUMORS CLAIMING SOME LOWER-LEVEL
CORRUPTION.

4. COMMENT: WITH THESE CHANGES, THE GOVERNMENT THAT
WILL PRESIDE OVER THE RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE NOW APPEARS
SUBSTANTIALLY IN PLACE.
JARAMILLO

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Subject: NEW MINECONOMY: NO OTHER MAJOR CHANGES
TAGS: PGOV, PINR, HO, COHBANA, (VILLANUEVA, BENJAMIN)
To: STATE
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